



**File Code:** 1950; 2800; 1560  
**Date:** September 17, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed" (40 CFR § 1501.7). Scoping is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an EA or an EIS (36 CFR 220.4(e)(1)). I request your input on the Owl Creek Test Holes project described below.

The Forest Service proposes to allow the exploration for gravel, on less than 1 acre of land, in the proposed Owl Creek Gravel Pit in Garland County, Arkansas. Test pits would be dug in the proposed area to see if a supply of gravel is present. The pits would not disturb more than 1 acre of land cumulatively. The purpose of this actions is to provide evidence of a supply of gravel to begin the environmental assessment for a gravel pit in this location.

Unless scoping identifies extraordinary circumstances, this project is within a category of actions that is excluded from documentation in an EA or an EIS; only a decision will be documented. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Chip Stokes by phone at (870) 867-2101, by email at [chip.stokes@usda.gov](mailto:chip.stokes@usda.gov), or address written comments to the District Ranger at the address listed above. Your comments would be most helpful if received by **October 5, 2020**.

Sincerely,

ICHIRO B. STEWART  
Acting District Ranger

Enclosure



